

Best of Both: Block & Traditional Schedules



Carroll High School is Making it Happen!



WE ARE a suburban high school of approximately 2,200 students located in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Carroll High School's student population includes approximately 13% diversity. Students come from both rural and suburban backgrounds.

OUR TEACHERS 120 Carroll High School Teachers have received training in research-based best practices in curriculum, instruction and assessment in order to maximize the use of the modified block schedule.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE Carroll High School's hybrid schedule includes 3 traditional 7-period days (48 min. classes) and 2 block days (90 min. classes) along with weekly teacher collaboration (60 min.) which is outside of instructional time so nothing is taken away from the students. The schedule provides time for project based learning opportunities and other unique learning experiences. The schedule has been in use for 17 years and during that time Carroll High School's achievement scores have continually improved. In addition, this year we are experimenting with a "Zero Hour"... "voluntary" classes offered for an hour before the start of the traditional school day. We are hopeful that this will provide more flexibility and options for students.

OUR STEPS Implementation of this schedule followed three years of studying school districts that were utilizing a block schedule (both 4 X 4 and Block 8; Pros and Cons) by the Carroll High School staff. Instead of choosing "all Block vs no Block", Carroll High School decided to utilize a hybrid schedule which allows for the best of both Traditional and Block scheduling (students can earn 7 credits per semester; time for in-depth projects and labs). The successful results (consistently high grad rate, student options) have prompted us to continue the use of this hybrid schedule.

IN OUR OWN WORDS Students and staff appreciate "the change in daily routine" offered by this schedule. Some students felt it helps motivate them. They also appreciate the extra time afforded on block days to "dig deeper into research type projects". We will continue to examine the results of adding a Zero Hour scheduling option.

For more information about our school or corporation, email: sam.diprimio@nacs.k12.in.us
or visit our website: www.nacs.k12.in.us